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**1962/10/23**

INCOMING TELEGRAM

219 Department of State

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FROM: ATHENS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 501, OCTOBER 23, MIDNIGHT

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 501; INFORMATION PARIS 52.

PARIS PASS USRO

CUBAN SUMMARY I

Control: 17465

Rec'd: OCTOBER 23, 1962

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THIS IS FIRST OF SERIES MESSAGES WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED PERIODICALLY SUMMARIZING INFORMATION AND REACTION IN GREECE TO CUBAN SITUATION. MESSAGES IN-THIS SERIES COORDINATE INFORMATION AND APPRAISAL FROM ALL SECTIONS OF MISSION, INCLUDING SERVICE ATTACHES CAS AND USIS.

PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 23 GAVE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES OF FULL GOG SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS RE CUBA SET FORTH IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. PRIME MINISTER SAID INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT ALREADY SENT TO GREEK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PARIS AND US COULD COUNT ON GOG SUPPORT IN UN AS WELL. CARAMANLIS STATED GREEK POSITION BASED ON CONVICTION THAT STRENGTH AND SECURITY OF US WAS BASIS STRENGTH AND SECURITY OF FREE WORLD AND WE NEED HAVE NO DOUBT THAT GREECE WOULD STAND WITH US IN THIS CRISIS AS IT HAD IN OTHERS. (SEE EMBASSY'S TELEGRAM 500).

SERVICE ATTACHES INFORMED THAT GREEK GENERAL STAFFS RECEIVED ADVANCE INFORMATION OF IMPORTANT POLICY STATEMENT ON CUBA TO BE MADE BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY. CHIEFS OF STAFF STAYED UP TO

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-2-      501, OCTOBER 23, MIDNIGHT      FROM    ATHENS

HEAR PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 23 HELD MEETING TO DECIDE ON PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. REFLECTING THE OPINION THAT GREEK THRACE PARTICULARLY CONSTITUTES A WEAK AREA, WHICH IF SUBJECT TO BLOC RETALIATION, IT WAS DECIDED "B" CORPS ARMED GROUP SHOULD BE ALERTED TO REINFORCE "C" CORPS, AND THAT THE 37TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LAMIA) SHOULD BE ALERTED FOR A POSSIBLE MOVE. ALSO INDICATED THAT "D" GROUP OF RAIDING FORCES (THESSALONIKI) MAY BE MOVED TO BULGARIAN BORDER. NO TROOP MOVEMENTS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ORDERED. 1021

FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF A MESSAGE FROM SACEUR CAME THROUGH NATO CHANNELS RECOMMENDING THAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BE TAKEN. THESE MEASURES HAVE SINCE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE GREEK FORCES.

NON-GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS HAS NOT CRYSTALLIZED AS YET. ENTIRE GREEK PRESS PLAYS CUBA AS NUMBER ONE STORY BUT THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL REACTION. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI OCTOBER 23 ASSERTS "GREEK PUBLIC OPINION FULLY APPLAUDS AMERICAN ACTIONS FOR IT BELIEVES THAT COMMUNISTS RECOGNIZE ONLY POWER. CENTER OPPOSITION ETHNOS SAME DAY POINTS TO DANGERS INHERENT IN PRESENT SITUATION AND ANTICIPATES "RADICAL" SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR WORLD PEACE. COMMUNIST AVGHI FAILS TO COMMENT EDITORIALY BUT RUNS STORY UNDER SCREAMING HEADLINES ASSERTING "GANGSTER ACTION (BY US) DRIVING MANKIND TO BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR."

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